

S-438  
Joseph Robert Smith Waters House  
Upper Hill  
Private

Standing in the center of the rural black village of Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is one of several dozen late nineteenth century and early twentieth century houses that define this historic African-American community. Erected around the turn of the twentieth century, this two-story, center hall house is marked by two-over-two sash windows on each side of a sidelighted entrance. The single-pile main block is extended to the rear by a two-story, two-bay service wing.

Land records research for this lot trace the ownership back to the last will and testament of Samuel C. Waters, written in 1894. Samuel C. Waters left several lots in Upper Hill to various family members, and the fourth item in his bequest left to his son, Joseph Robert Smith Waters, the lot bounded on one side by the property of the M. E. Parsonage. The two-story frame dwelling was probably erected within the following few years. The property remained in Waters and related family hands until 1983.

# HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Joseph Robert Smith Waters House

MHT Inventory Number: S-438

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-438

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOSEPH ROBERT SMITH WATERS HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 8263 Upper Hill Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Upper Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lillian Lucille Nichols

street & number P. O. Box 336 telephone no.:

city, town Upper Hill state and zip code Md 21868

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 394

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 943

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Joseph Robert Smith Waters house stands at 8263 Upper Hill Road in the center of the rural black community of Upper Hill, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Erected around 1900-10, the two-story, single-pile frame dwelling is supported by a low masonry foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding. The house is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Extending to the rear of the main block is a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. A partially glazed front door is framed by three-light sidelights. Sheltering the first floor is a hipped roof front porch. The second floor is marked by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows.

Each gable end is marked by a single two-over-two sash window on each floor, and the eaves to the roof are slightly extended. Rising against the south gable end is an exterior concrete block stove flue.

The east wall of the main house is partially covered by a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing that was built with a shorter elevation than the main house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. S-438

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Land records research for this lot trace the ownership back to the last will and testament of Samuel C. Waters, written in 1894.(Somerset County Register of Wills, HHD 6/162) Samuel C. Waters left several lots in Upper Hill to various family members, and the fourth item in his bequest left to his son, Joseph Robert Smith Waters, the lot bounded on one side by the property of the M. E. Parsonage. The two-story frame dwelling was probably erected within the following few years. The property remained in Waters and related family hands until 1983.(Somerset County Land Record, 341/409)

Survey No. S-438

## PS-2746

S-438  
JOSEPH ROBERT SMITH WATERS HOUSE  
8263 Upper Hill Road  
Upper Hill, Maryland  
Chain of title

394/943                      Lillian Lucill Nichols, Personal  
Representative of the Estate of  
Marion D. Nichols

to

1/21/1991                      Lillian Lucille Nichols

341/409                      Alvin Kidd, et al.

to

11/21/1983                      Marion Nichols  
Whereas John Fletcher Waters died intestate  
June 25, 1932      Mary Frances Waters, widow  
died intestate      2/4/1952

81/442                      Joseph Smith Waters  
Effie J. Waters

to

7/10/1920                      John Fletcher Waters

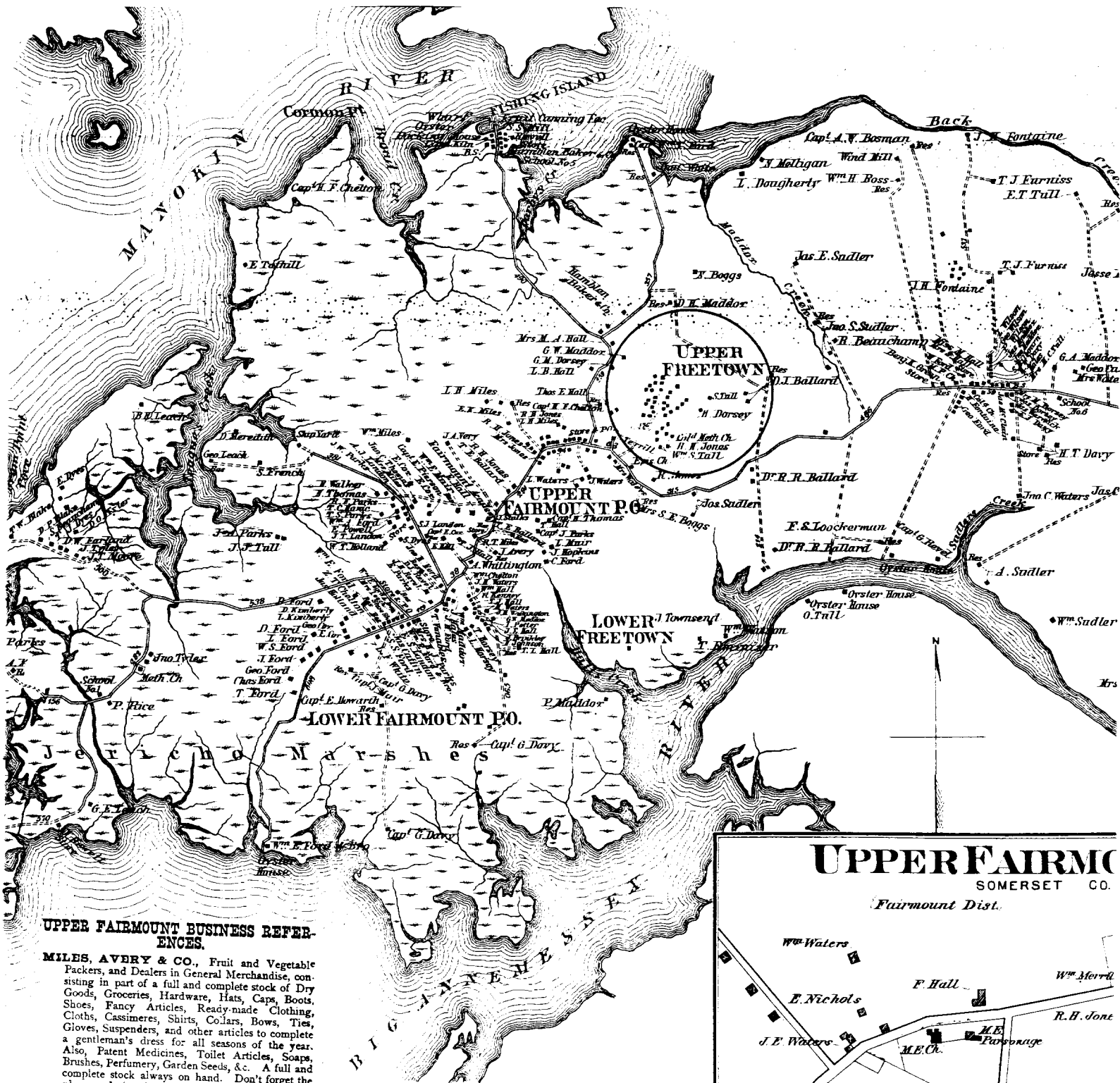
HHD    6/162                      Samuel C. Waters

to

8/17/1894                      Joseph Robert Smith Waters  
4th Item-I give and bequeath to my son  
Joseph Robert Smith Waters all that  
certain lot bounded on the north by  
the properties of the M. E. Parsonage  
and that of John D. Maddox







#### UPPER FAIRMOUNT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

**MILES, AVERY & CO.,** Fruit and Vegetable Packers, and Dealers in General Merchandise, consisting in part of a full and complete stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Fancy Articles, Ready-made Clothing, Cloths, Cassimeres, Shirts, Collars, Bows, Ties, Gloves, Suspenders, and other articles to complete a gentleman's dress for all seasons of the year. Also, Patent Medicines, Toilet Articles, Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Garden Seeds, &c. A full and complete stock always on hand. Don't forget the place, and give them a call.

**W. E. FORD & BRO.,** Oyster Packers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Hardware, and General Merchandise. Lower Fairmount.

**Dr. S. S. MILES,** Physician and Surgeon.

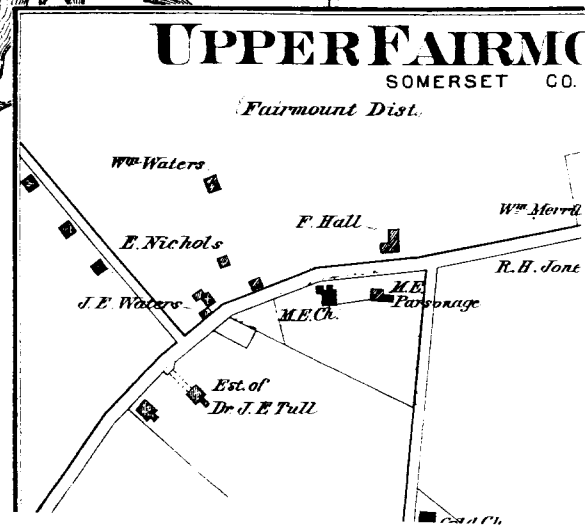
**B. K. GREEN,** Dealer in General Merchandise, such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Notions, and all goods suitable for a first-class country store. Westover.

**W. S. LONG,** Dealer in Hardware, Tinware, Groceries, Notions, &c. Store near Westover, Md.

**JOSEPH GILPIN** offers a fine farm of 410 acres for sale. Westover.

## FAIRMOUNT

Dist. No. 6  
SOMERSET CO



LAKE, GRIFFING, AND STEVENSON  
ATLAS, 1877

Fairmount District

S-438

MARION QUADRAI  
MARYLAND-SOMERS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOI

5860 III NE  
(MONIE)

429

430

47'30"

431

1 150 000 FEET

432

433

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JOSEPH R. S. WATERS HOUSE

Upper Hill, Somerset Co., Maryland

Marion, Maryland Quadrangle  
1972





S-438

Joseph R. S. Warren House

Upper Hill, Seneca County, N.Y.

Southwest elevation

5/95, Paul Towner, Photoduplication

NYC / N.Y. Historical Trust

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